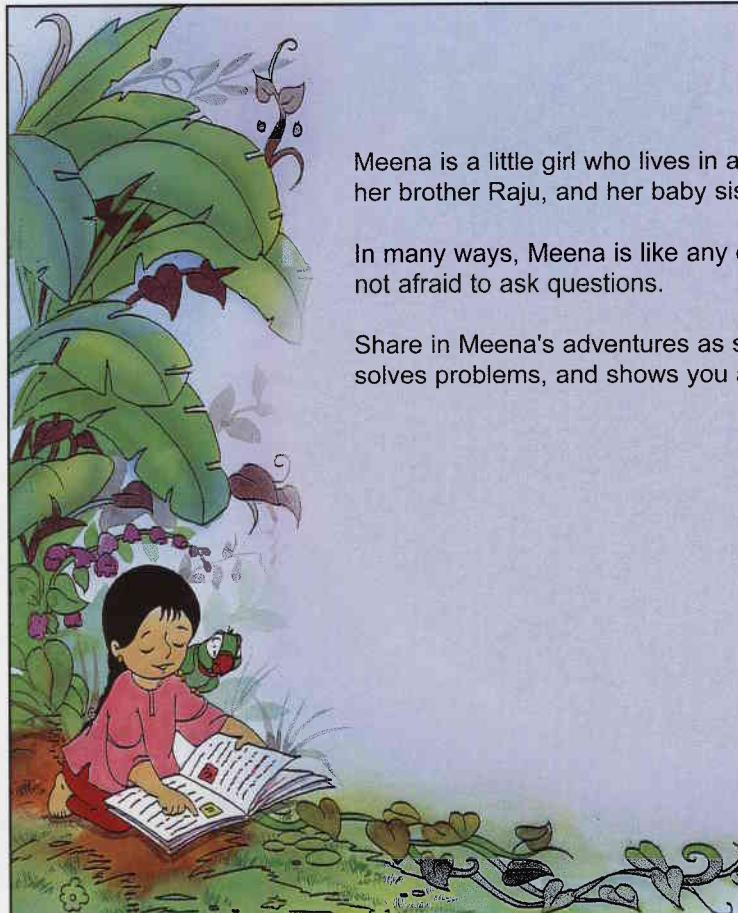


Take Care of Girls





Meena is a little girl who lives in a village with her parents, her grandmother, her brother Raju, and her baby sister, Rani. Mithu, the parrot, is her best friend.

In many ways, Meena is like any other little girl you know. She is friendly but is not afraid to ask questions.

Share in Meena's adventures as she laughs, climbs trees, asks questions and solves problems, and shows you all the things that a little girl can do.

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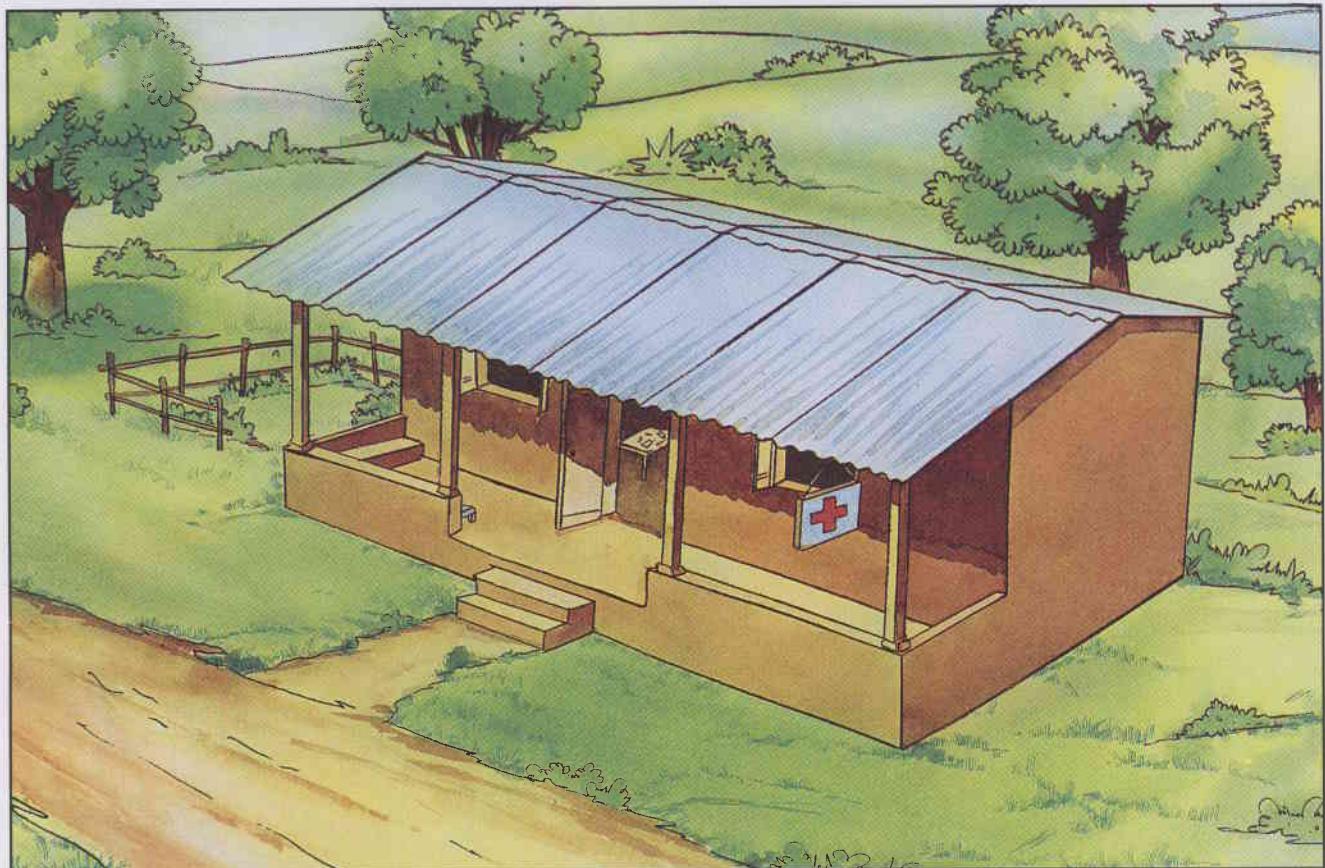
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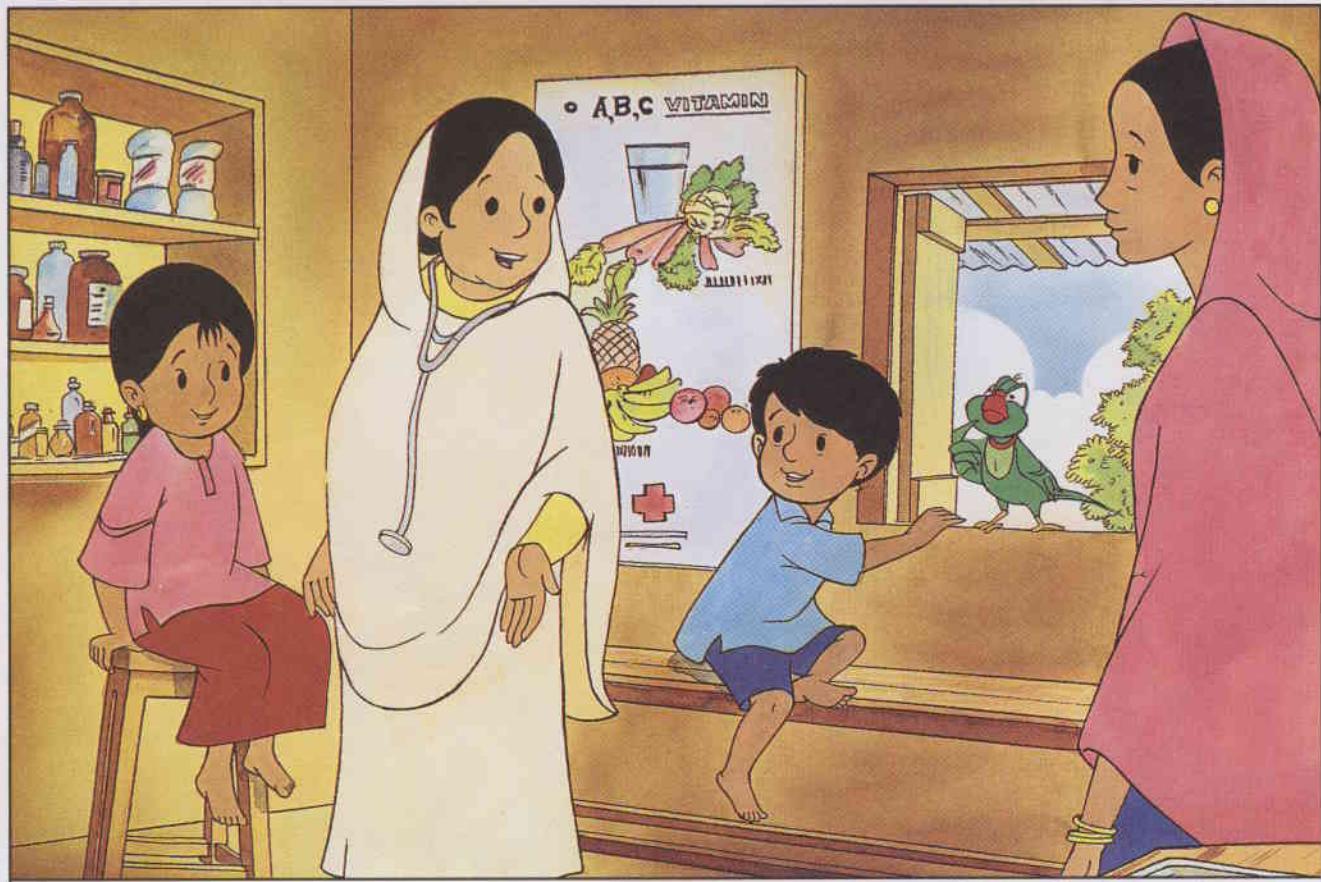
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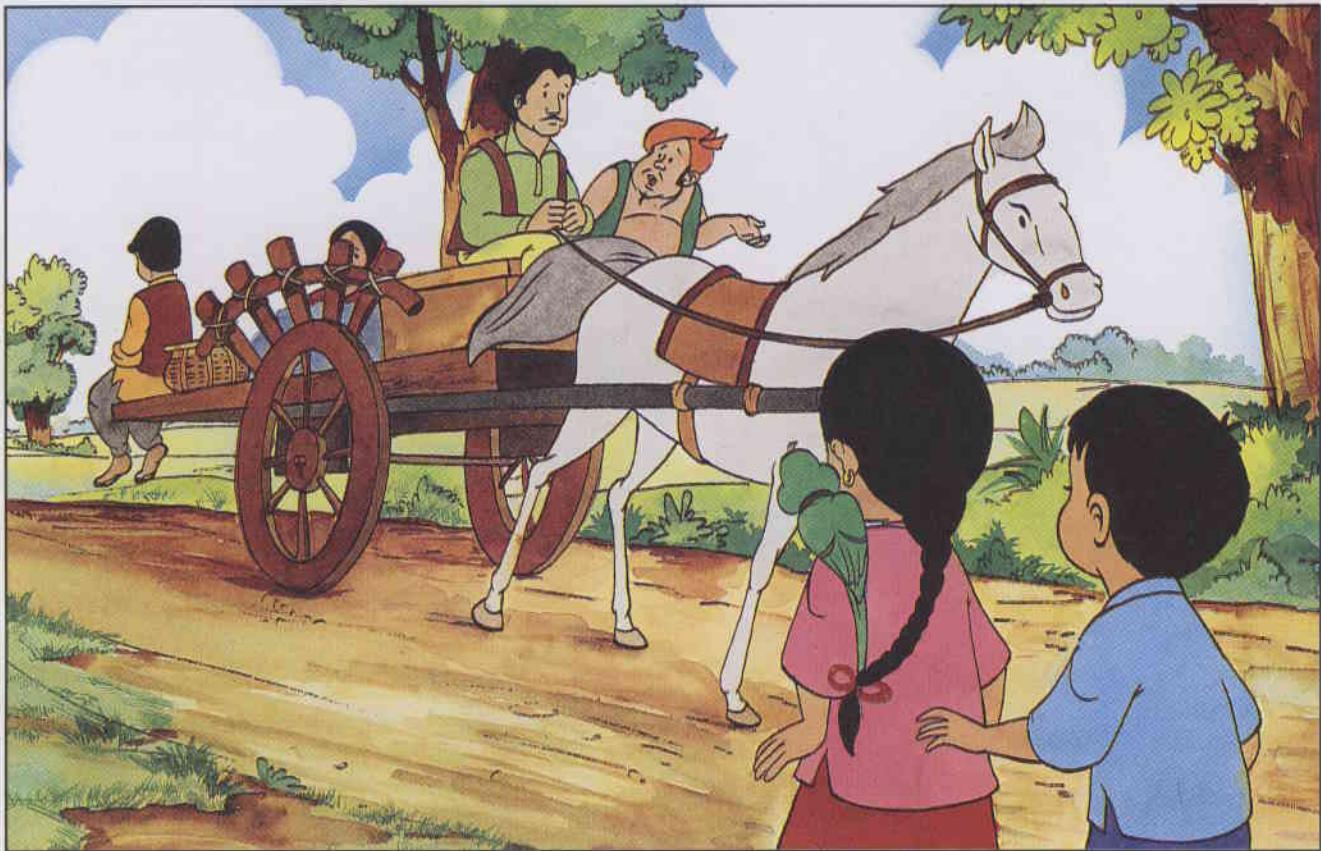
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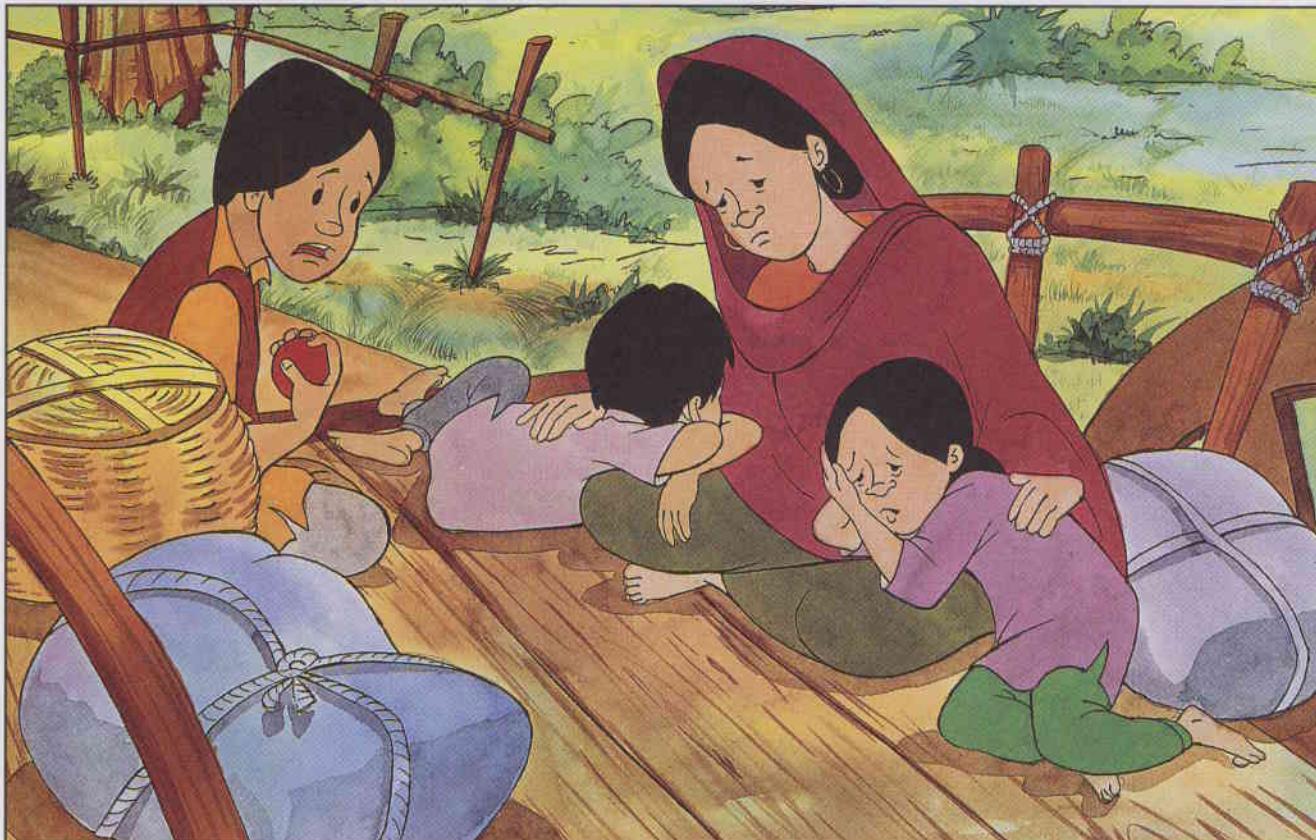
One day, Meena and Raju were taken to the health centre by their mother



They had been ill, but the doctor said that they were now well enough to go back to school.



When they came out of the health centre, Meena and Raju saw a horse and cart draw up. A family of acrobats were on their way to perform at the local fair.



There were three children in the back of the cart. Two of them – a little boy and a girl – looked very ill.



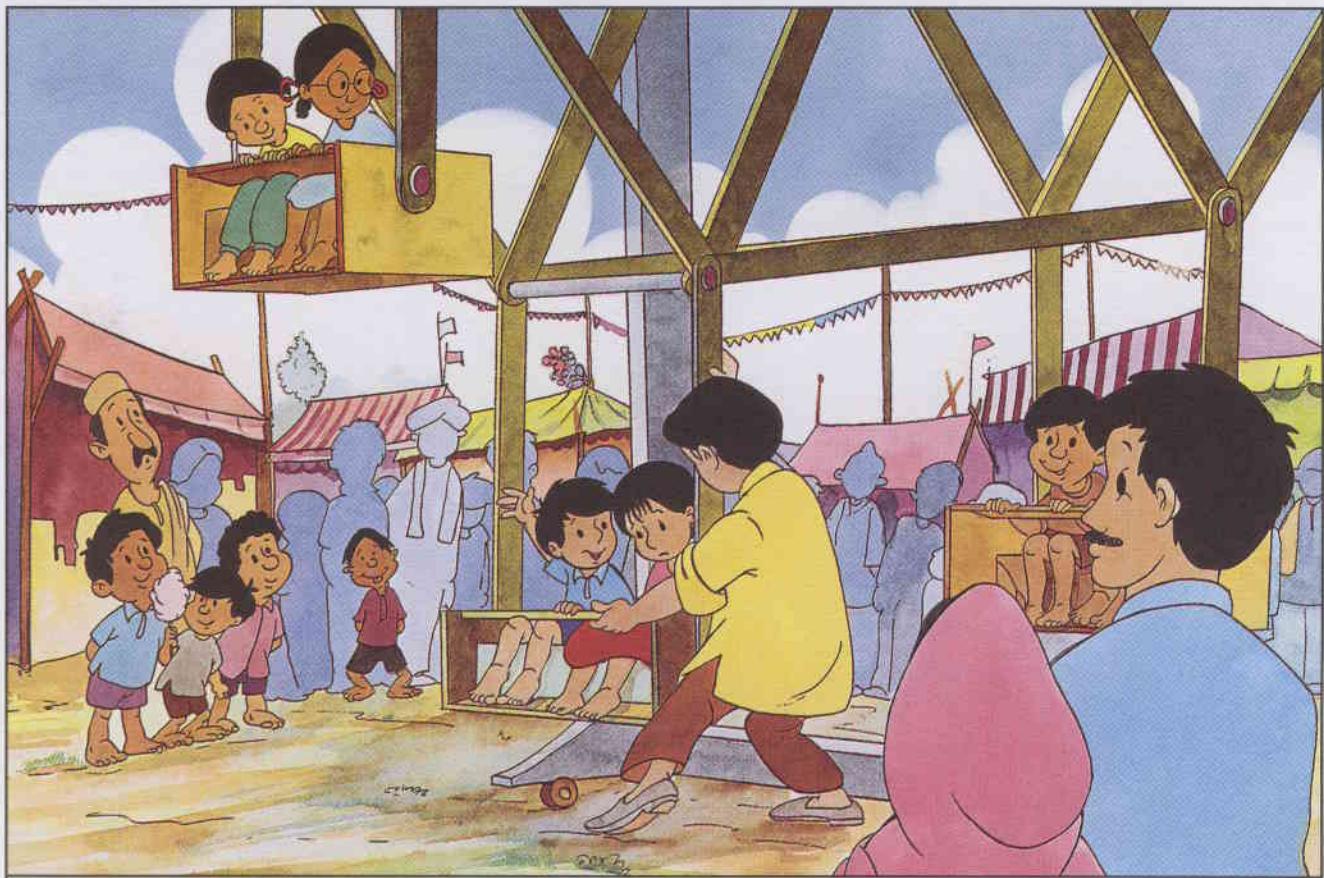
Meena and Raju watched as the little boy was carried in by his father to see the doctor. They asked Kamal, the older boy, what was wrong. His little brother, Pasha, had fever, he said.



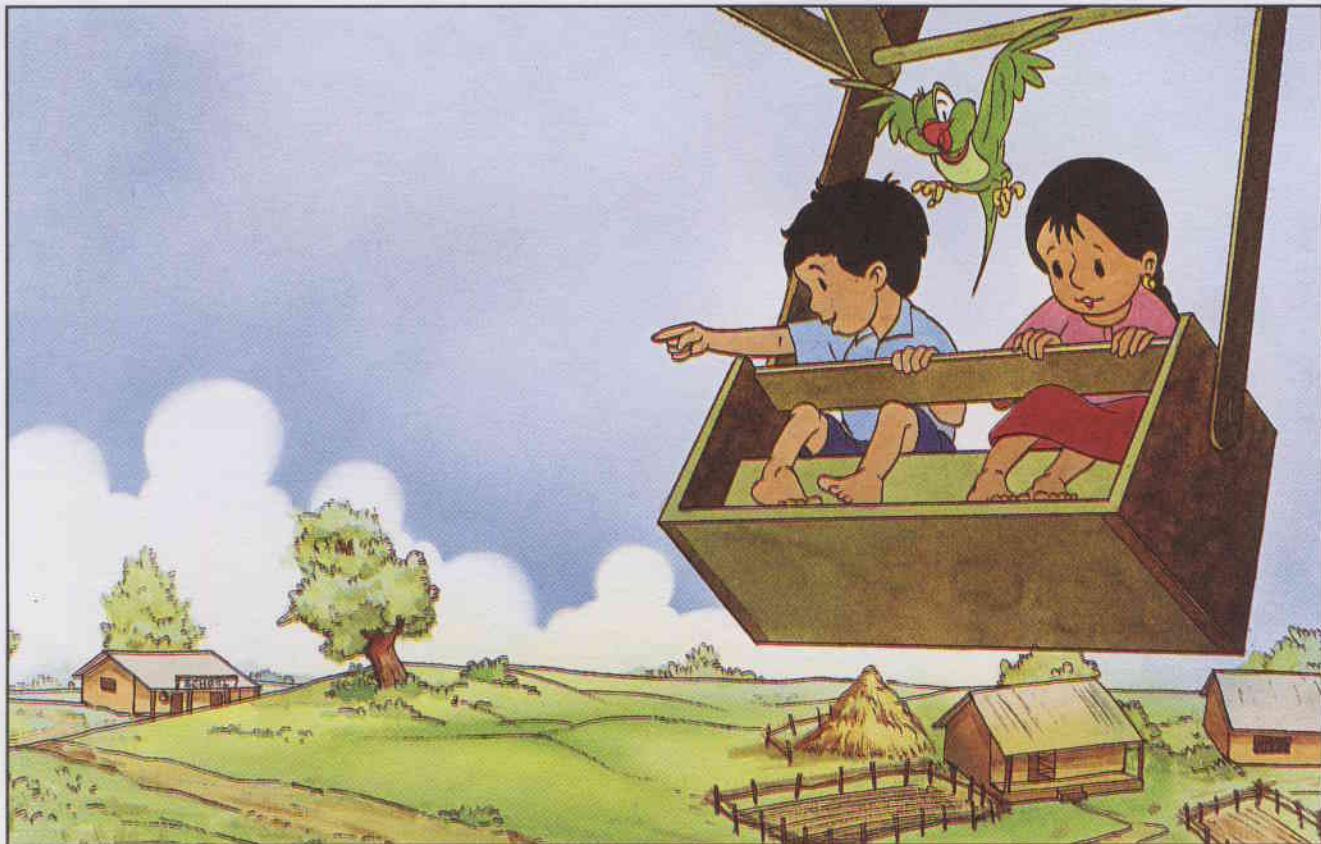
Sabina, their sister, was also burning with fever. But the children's uncle, who was driving the cart, insisted that she did not need to see the doctor. Girls didn't need any treatment, he said, they could get better if they just drank some tea.



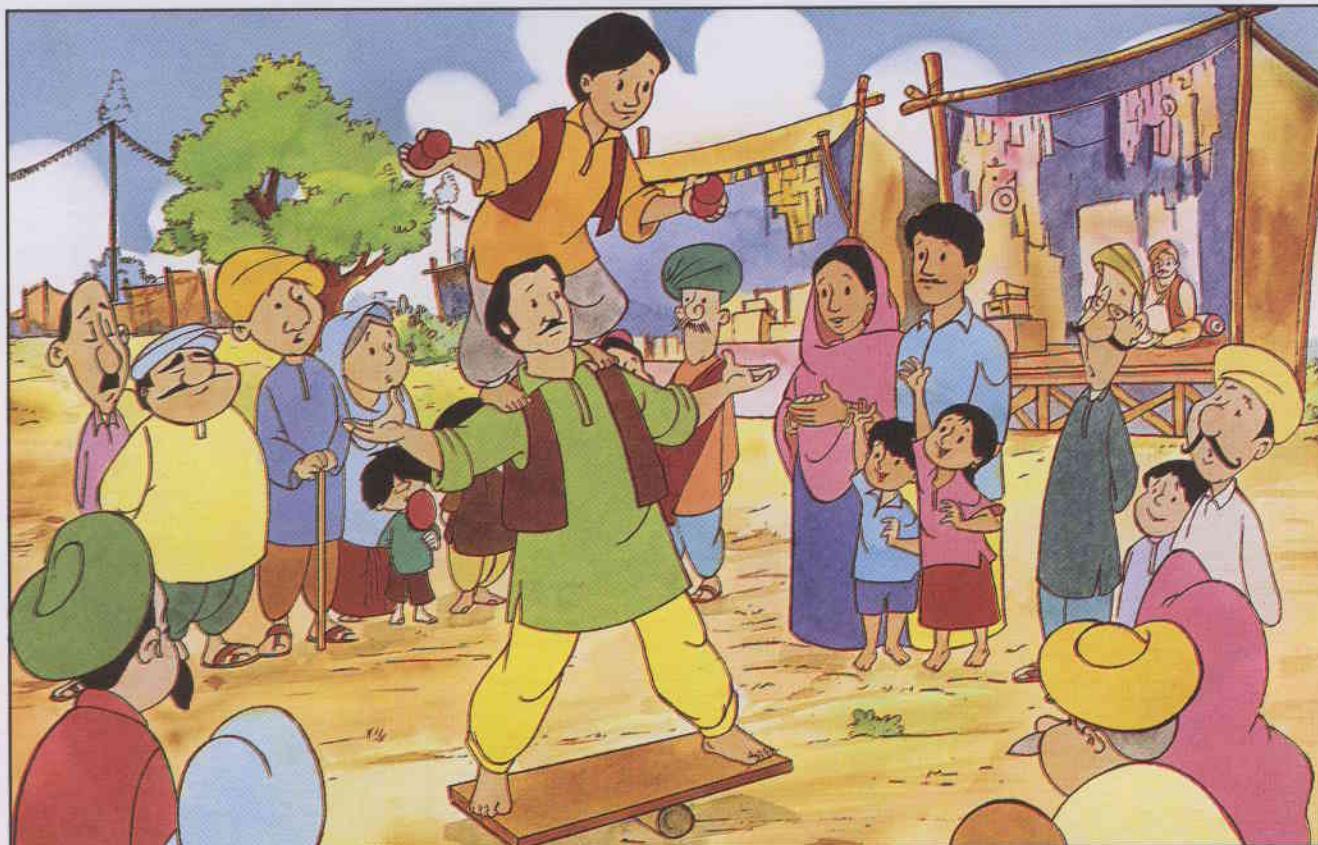
That afternoon, Meena and Raju went with their parents to the fair. It was a wonderful sight.



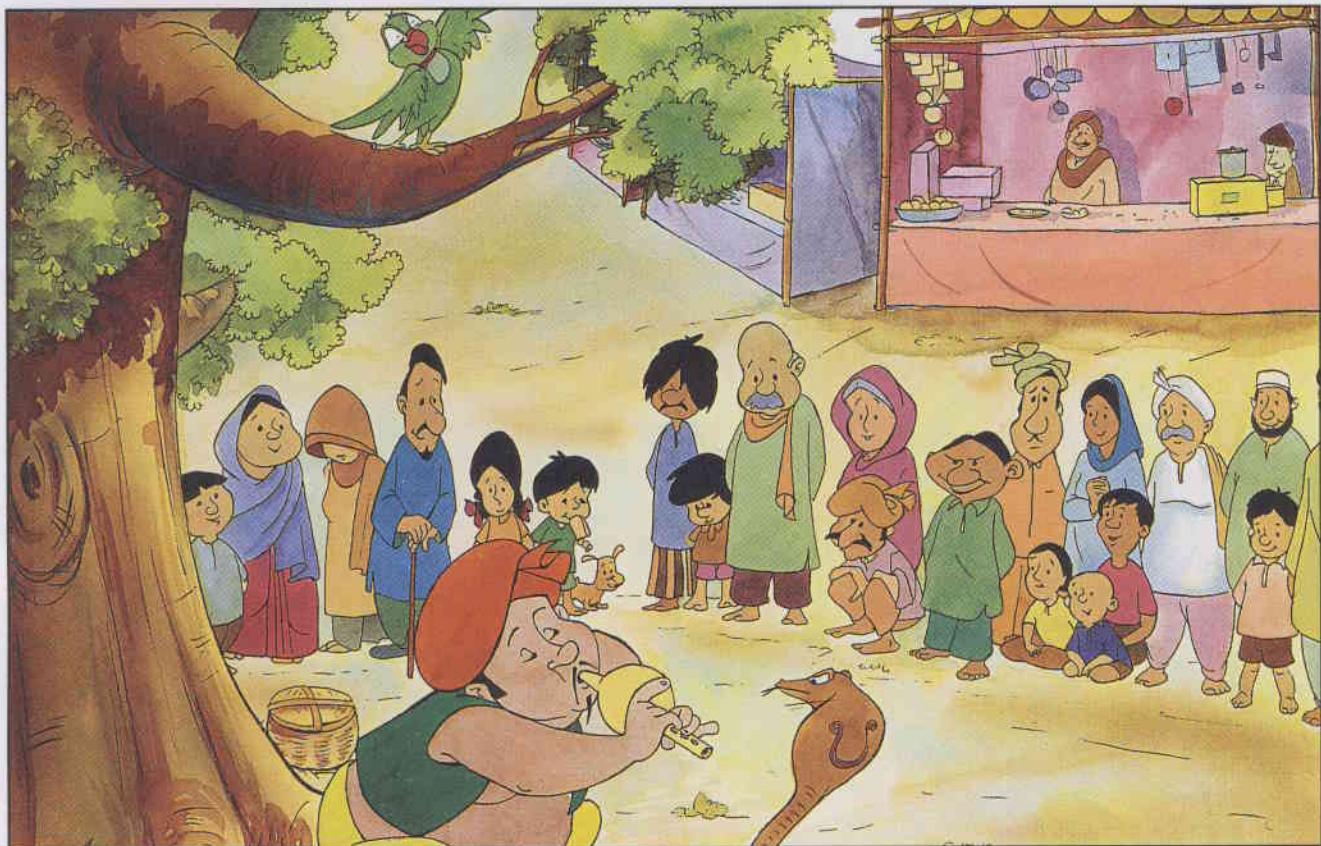
One of the first things they did was to sit on a huge giant wheel.



From the very top of the giant wheel, Meena and Raju saw their school. It was really exciting, but Meena was also a bit scared of the height.



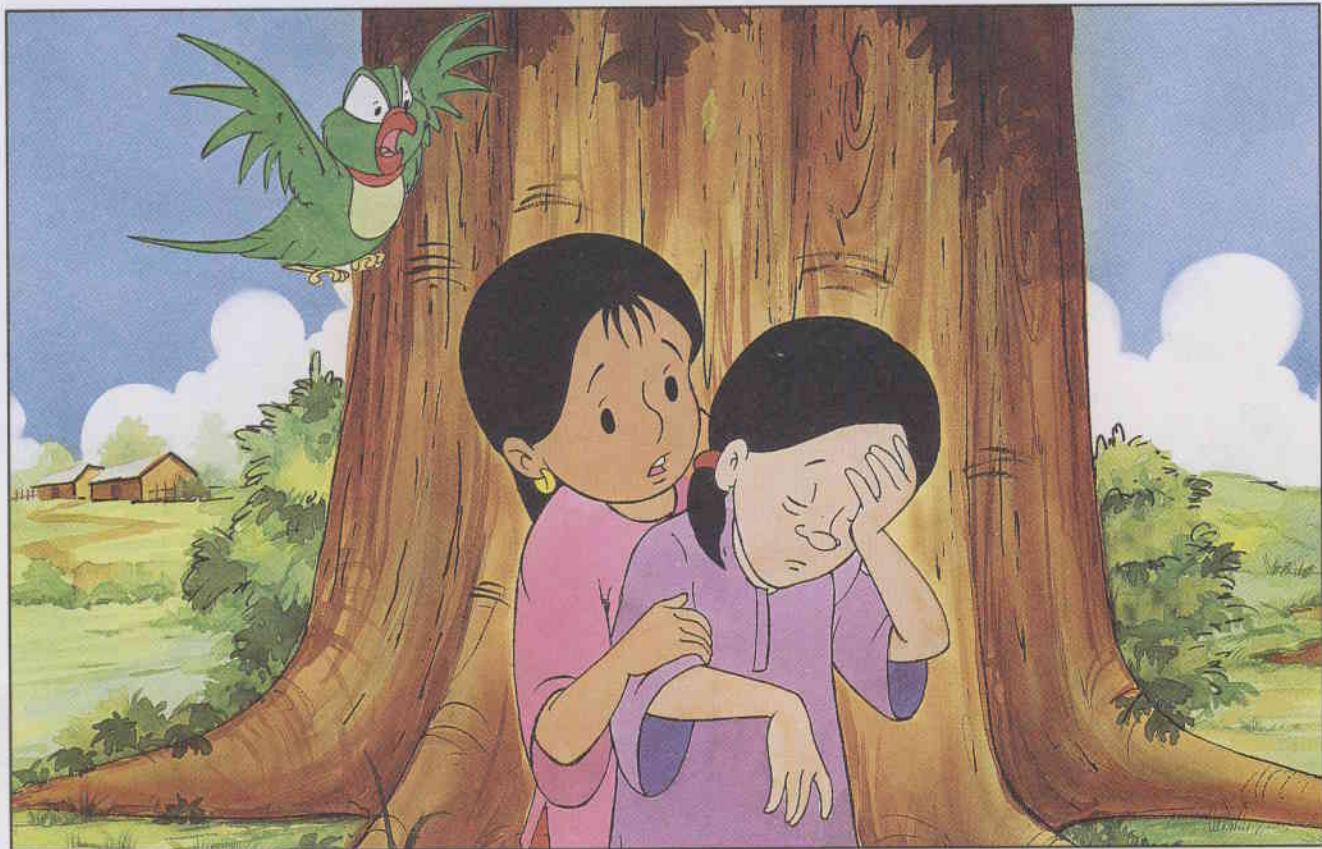
Then they saw the acrobats performing. They saw Kamal standing on his father's shoulders and performing some great tricks.



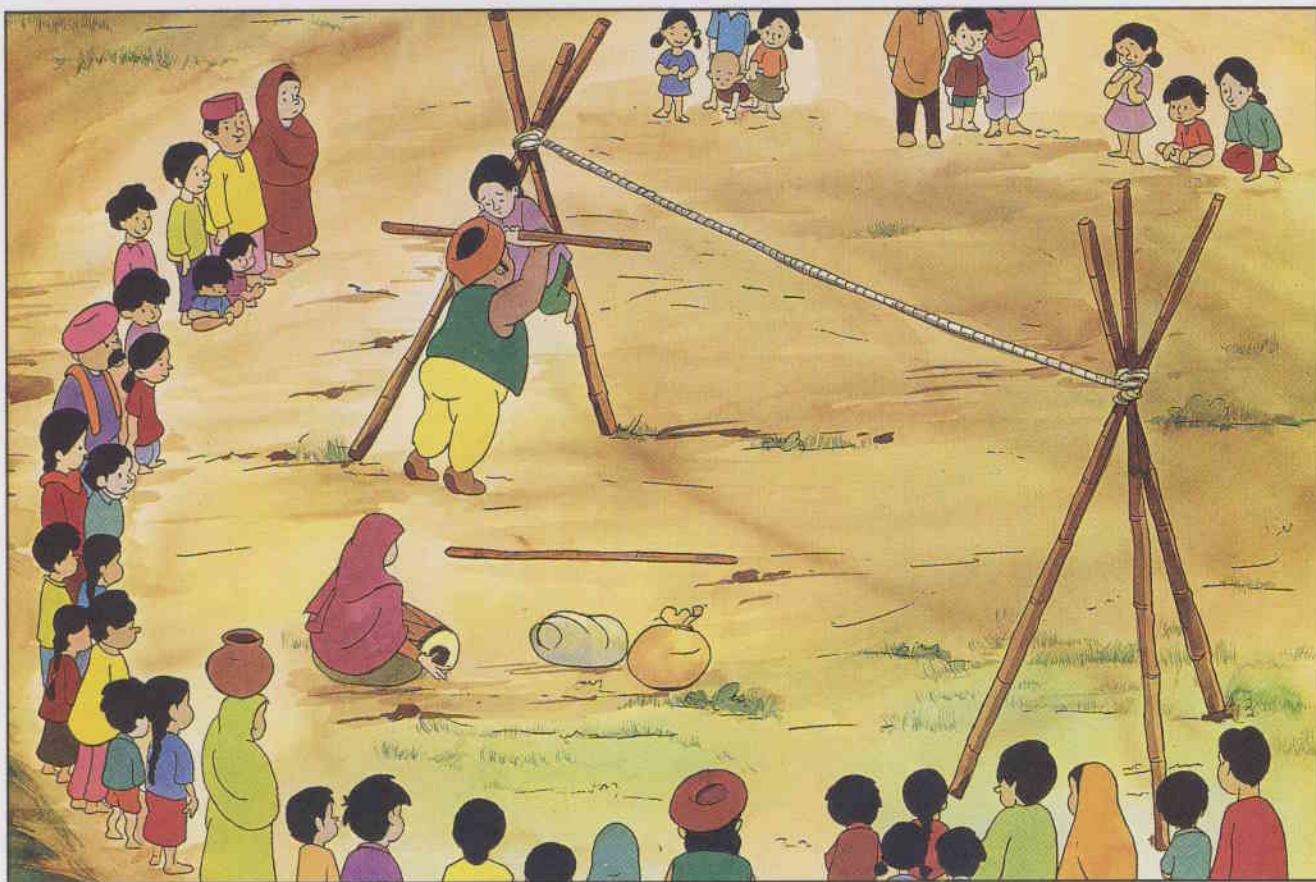
Meanwhile, Meena's parrot, Mithu, had flown away to watch the snake charmer. Mithu danced in tune to the music along with the snake.



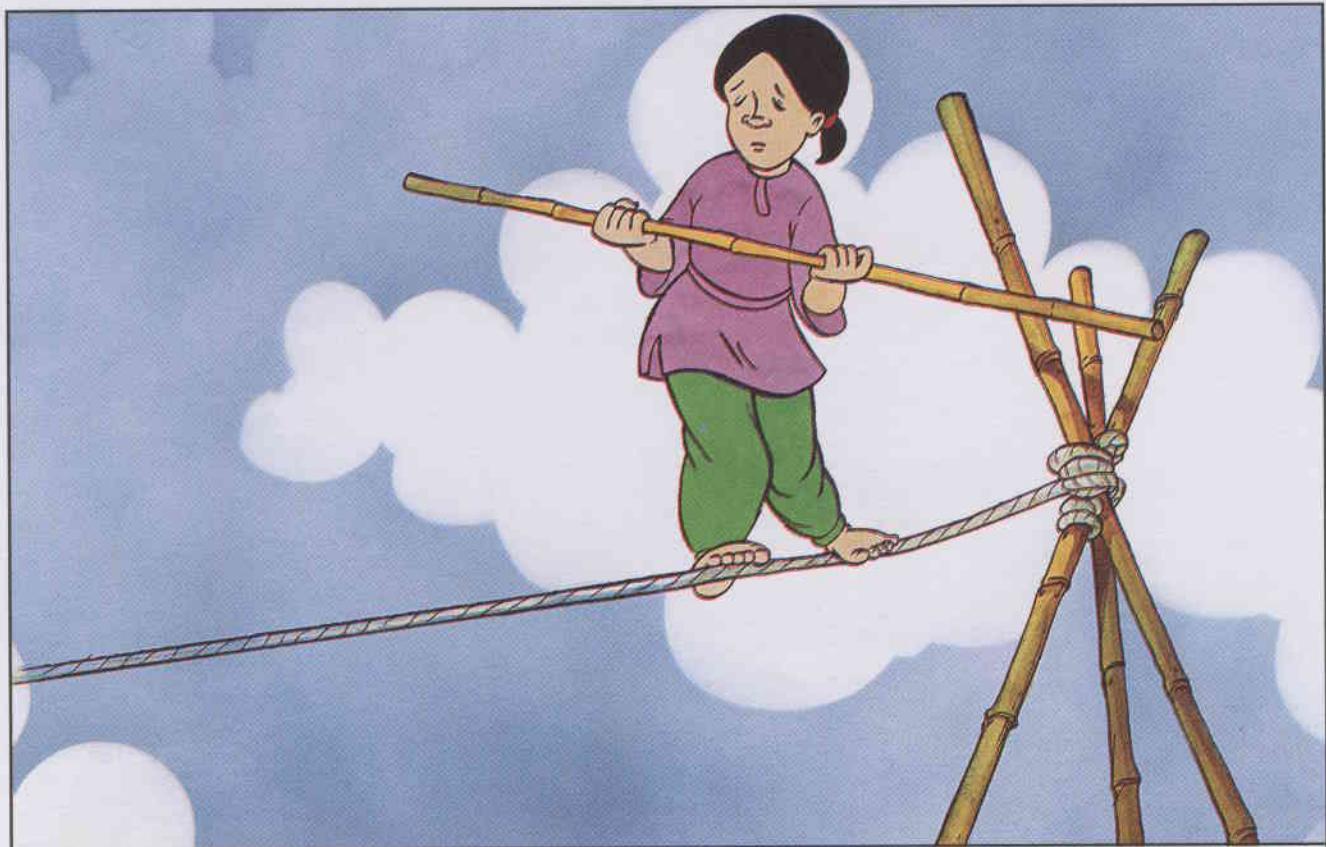
When Meena went in search of Mithu, she found the snake charmer shouting in a loud voice. She recognized him as Kamal's uncle who had driven the cart that morning. The snake charmer wanted Sabina to get up and perform, while Pasha, her sick brother, rested. He felt that Sabina was not really ill, but was only pretending.



Sabina almost fell while walking past Meena. She seemed to be very sick. Meena was so worried. But what could she do?



The sick little girl was put up on the tightrope by her uncle. A large crowd started to gather.

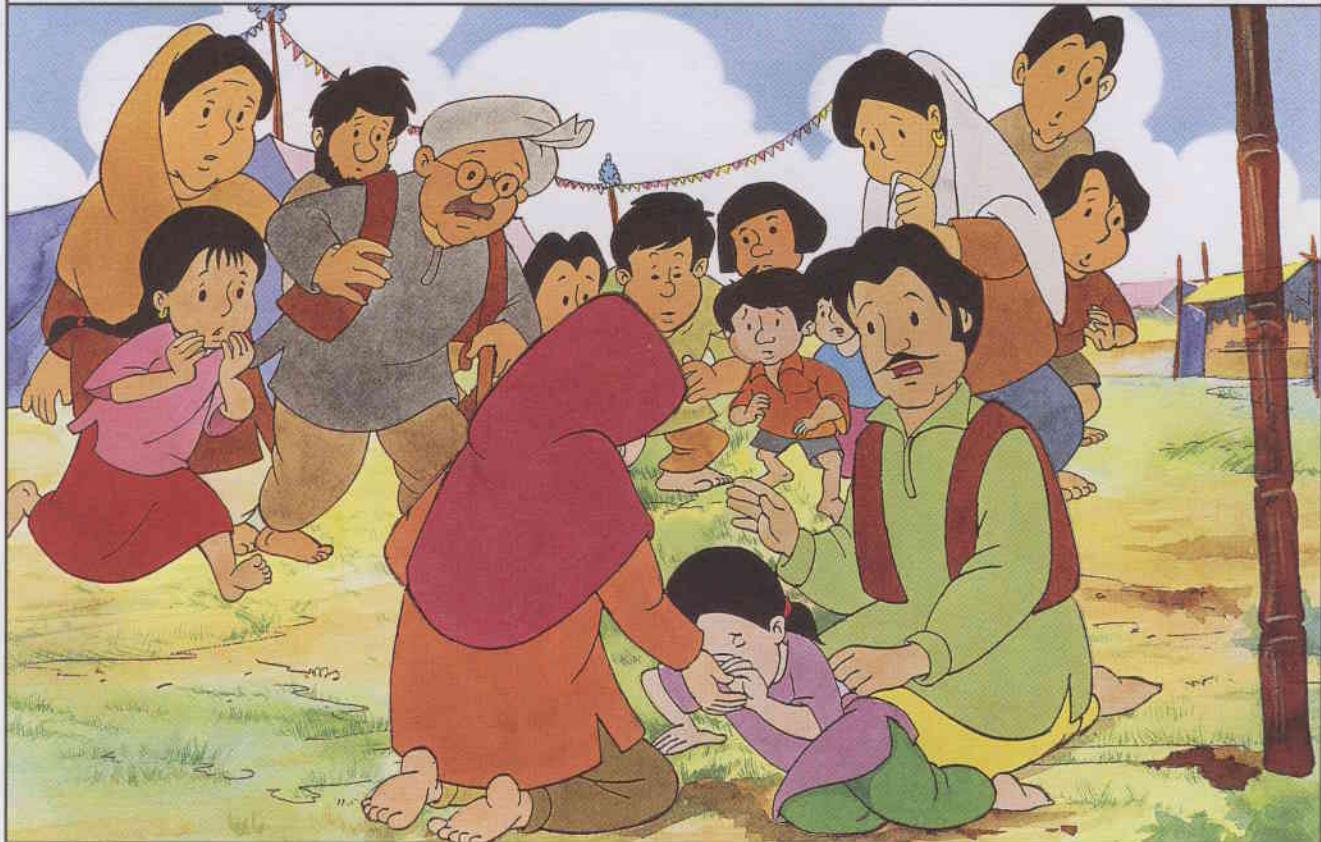


Sabina started walking slowly across the rope. She looked ill and unsteady. The crowd was very quiet.



Suddenly, she swayed and lost her balance. With a small cry, she fell to the ground.

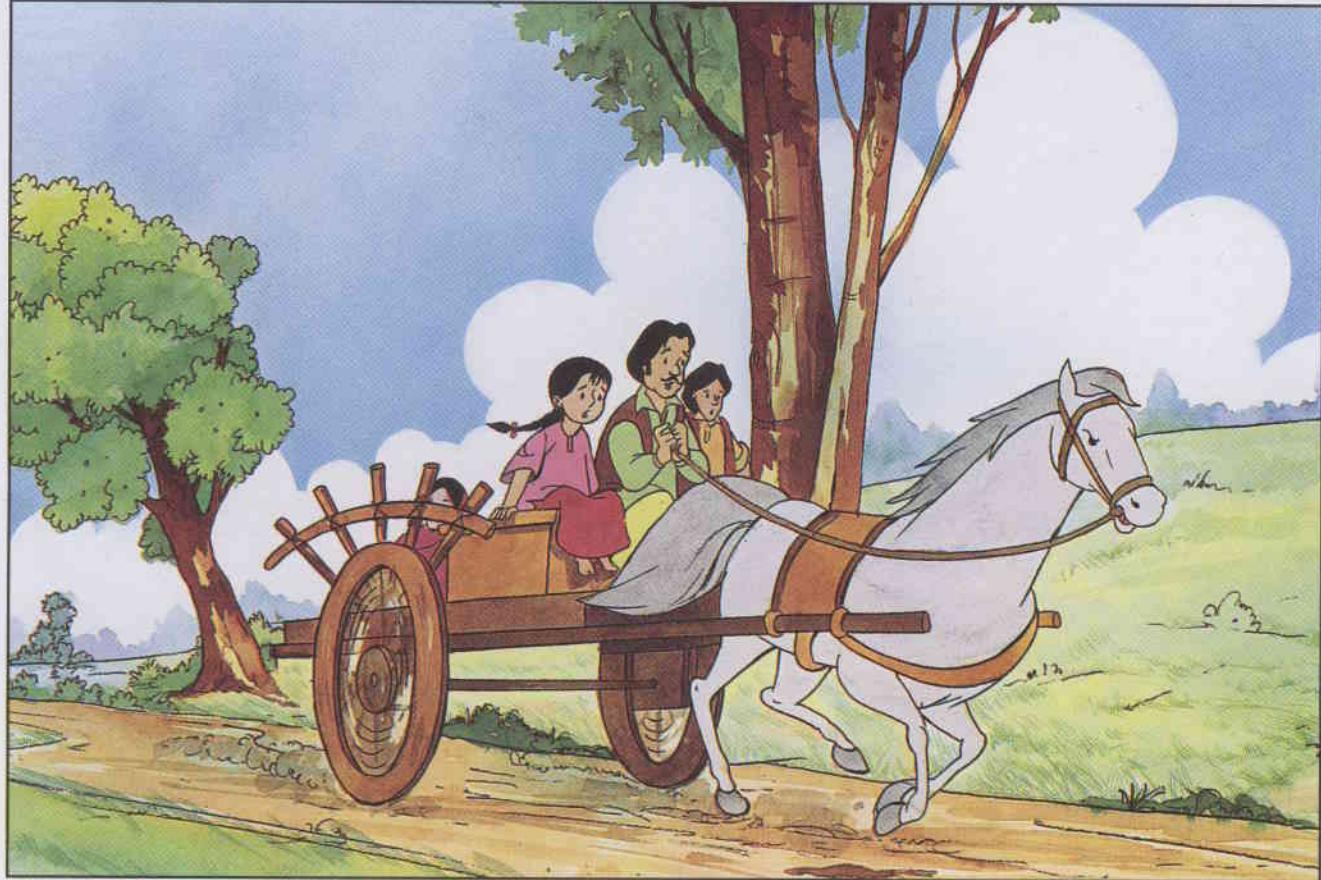
Everyone was horrified. The poor little girl lay still. Her mother started screaming, while her father lifted her up, not knowing what to do.



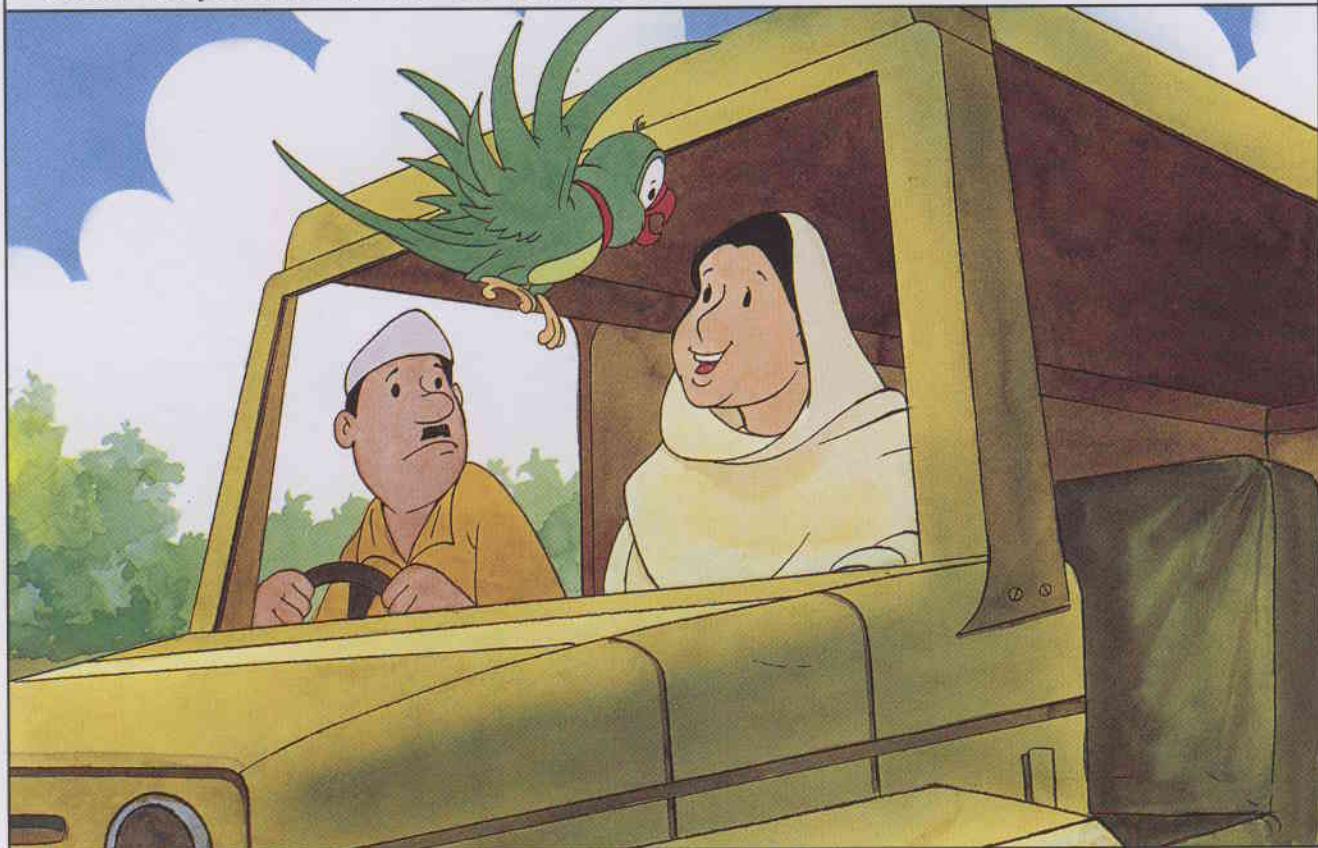


"Quick! The doctor!" shouted Meena. She knew that the doctor would soon be leaving for the next village. Along with Sabina's parents, she rushed towards the horse and cart.

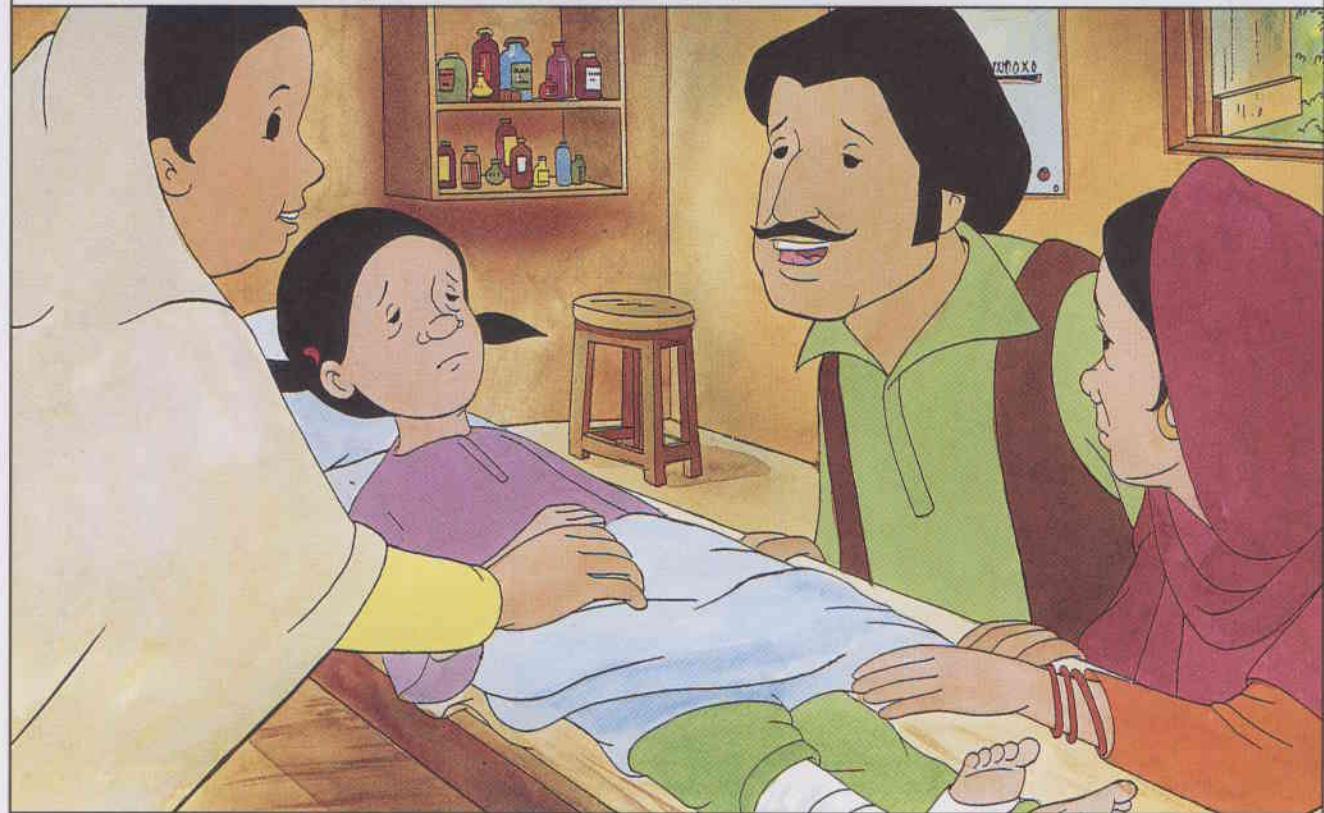
What a ride it was! The horse raced over the bumpy road and everyone bounced up and down.



Meena had sent Mithu on ahead to inform the doctor. That was a good idea, because the doctor was just about to leave the health centre.



Later, the doctor bandaged Sabina's foot. She said that Sabina was lucky that it was just a sprain. But she still needed lots of care for her fever. Sabina's parents realized that they were wrong not to have brought her in for treatment earlier.





The doctor told them that it is very important for boys and girls to get equal care and treatment.

When both Sabina and Pasha were well again, they came with their family to Meena's school. They put up a special show for the children and even taught them some tricks. Sabina's parents decided to send their children to school, too.





Meena and Sabina balanced on a plank of wood and hugged each other with happiness, while Mithu went around saying, "Take care of girls! Take care of girls!"

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